

Press Release

Congress of Local and Regional Authorities

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Congress delegation calls for greater competences and resources for Romanian local and regional authorities

Strasbourg, 27.05.2010 – A delegation of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe carried out a general monitoring visit to Romania from 24 to 26 May 2010 to assess the state of local and regional democracy in that country.

The Congress Rapporteurs, Jean-Claude Frécon (France, SOC) and Mariacristina Spinosa (Italy, SOC), welcomed the progress made towards greater decentralisation and local self-government in Romania, but said that improvements were necessary. They therefore called on the national authorities to ensure that local and regional authorities were granted increased competences and adequate financial resources.

The Rapporteurs also noted that the issue of how to establish genuine regions in the country had not been resolved and they encouraged Romanian authorities to reach a firm decision on this subject as soon as possible.

Following the visit, a report will be submitted to the Institutional Committee of the Congress at one of its meetings in 2010.

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Romania ratified the European Charter of Local Self-Government in 1998. The most recent recommendation on the situation of local democracy in Romania was adopted in May 1995, and was followed by an information report on local and regional democracy in the country in April 2002 and a follow-up to the information report in April 2003. In March 2006, the Congress held an exchange of views with Liviu Radu, State Secretary at the Romanian Ministry of Administration and the Interior.

The Congress has two chambers, the Chamber of Local Authorities and the Chamber of Regions.

It brings together 318 full and 318 substitute members representing more than 200 000 European territorial communities.

President of the Congress: Yavuz Milden (Turkey, EPP/CD), President of the Chamber of Regions: Ludmila Sfirloaga (Romania, SOC),

President of the Chamber of Local Authorities: Ian Micallef (Malta, EPP/CD).

Political Groups: Socialist Group (SOC), Group of the European People's Party – Christian Democrats (EPP/CD), Independent and Liberal Democrat Group (ILDG).